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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,957	08/07/2001	Monica Minden	HRL035	2002
28848	7590	01/12/2005	EXAMINER	
TOPE-MCKAY & ASSOCIATES 23852 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY #311 MALIBU, CA 90265			RODRIGUEZ, ARMANDO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2828	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/924,957

Applicant(s)

MINDEN ET AL.

Examiner

ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 2 and 3, filed October 19, 2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-24 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Huber et al (PN 5,234,609).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,6,7,9,14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huber et al (PN 5,234,609).

Regarding claims 1 and 9,

Huber et al illustrates in figure 3 a fiber laser (14) formed into a ring [applicant's tight curve] having a pump source (10), a grating (40) [applicant's Bragg grating] and an optical isolator (16). The optical isolator provides single polarization, column 3 lines 58-61. Column 4 lines 34-35, describes the grating (40) as a Moire grating which is a superposition of two Bragg gratings (column 4 lines 41-43). Column 4 lines 63-65, discloses the gratings induced by photorefractive effect [applicant's non-destructive technique].

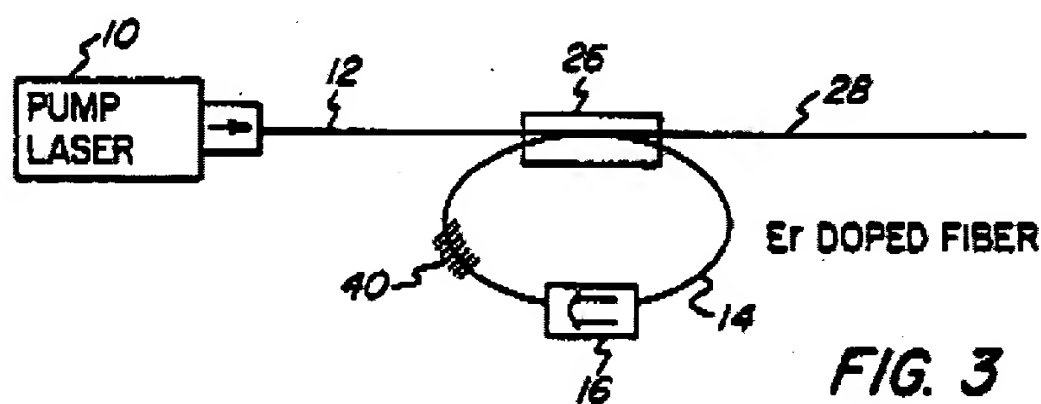
Regarding claims 6 and 14,

Huber et al illustrates in figure 3 a fiber laser (14) formed into a ring [applicant's tight curve].

Regarding claims 7 and 15,

Column 6 lines 14-16, discloses the use of Neodymium for the laser.

Figure 3 of Huber et al



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-5,8,10-13,16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huber et al (PN 5,234,609) in view of Starodubov et al (PN 5,745,617).

Regarding claims 2,10,

Huber et al discloses a photorefractive technique to create the gratings but does not disclose using a phase mask.

Starodubov et al discloses the use of a phase mask (30) for inducing gratings (12) into optical fiber (10), as illustrated in figure 1 and described in column 6 lines 16-20.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the induced grating technique disclosed by Starodubov et al to the fiber laser of Huber et al because it provides a simplified grating induction technique, as suggested in the abstract.

Regarding claims 3,11,

Huber et al does not disclose using an argon laser having a wavelength of 334 nm.

Starodubov et al discloses in column 4 lines 50-51 an argon laser with a wavelength of 334 nm.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the induced grating technique disclosed by Starodubov et al to the fiber laser of Huber et al because the argon laser (near UV 334nm) provides a greater grating –induction effectiveness, column 4 lines 61-63.

Regarding claim 4,12,

Huber et al does not disclose using a lens prior to the phase mask.

Figure 1 of Starodubov et al illustrates a focusing lens (22) [applicant's conditioning] disposed between the phase mask and the laser source.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the induced grating technique disclosed by Starodubov et al to the fiber laser of Huber et al because it provides a simplified grating induction technique, as suggested in the abstract.

Regarding claim 5,13,

Huber et al does not disclose using a glass slide between the phase mask and the fiber to protect the phase mask.

Figure 1 of Starodubov et al illustrates a glass shield (36) disposed between the phase mask and the fiber to shield the phase mask.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the induced grating technique disclosed by Starodubov et al to with the glass shield to the fiber laser of Huber et al because the glass shield prevents the pattern from being filled with particles, column 7 lines 39-40.

Regarding claim 8,16,

Huber et al does not disclose using an argon laser having a wavelength of between 320 nm and 340 nm.

Starodubov et al discloses, in column 4 lines 50-51, an argon laser having near UV 334nm.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the induced grating technique disclosed by Starodubov et al to the fiber laser of Huber et al because the argon laser (near UV 334nm) provides a greater grating –induction effectiveness, column 4 lines 61-63.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the cited prior arts alone or in combination discloses the claimed method for obtaining single polarization with the recited limitations of independent claim 17 having in particular fabricating a Bragg grating in the fiber laser and increasing a differential loss between two polarizations by tightly looping the Bragg grating.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ whose telephone number is 571-272-1952. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MINSUN HARVEY can be reached on 571-272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ
Examiner
Art Unit 2828

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